

Legal assistance award no small honor

Army recognizes office for outstanding service

By Capt. WILLIAM CARPENTER
Office of Staff Judge Advocate

The Legal Assistance Office has been selected as a winner of the 2002 Chief of Staff Award for Excellence in Legal Assistance, the Army's most distinguished honor for a Legal Assistance Office.

The Chief of Staff Award for Excellence in Legal Assistance falls into three active duty categories (small, medium, and large offices) and one reserve component category. The Legal Assistance Office was one of only six "small" legal assistance offices that were selected to receive this prestigious honor. Competition for this annual award is always strong, and selection is a coveted honor in recognition of superior legal assistance services.

Although the Legal Assistance Office is

categorized as a "small" legal assistance office, that term can be misleading because it is based on the number of attorneys assigned to the Legal Assistance Office and not the number of eligible clients or the volume of work produced. While the Legal Assistance Office has only one full-time attorney, Redstone has an eligible client base of almost 103,000 persons. This is particularly notable because some larger legal assistance offices have three or more attorneys performing full-time legal assistance while servicing a much smaller client base.

To further demonstrate the outstanding services provided by the Legal Assistance Office, the office was also selected as the winner of the 2003 AMC Command Counsel Team Project Award. This annual award is given in recognition of outstanding team projects and programs in support of the Army Materiel Command legal mission.

The Legal Assistance Office provides a wide range of free legal services to eligible clients including but not limited to the fol-

To learn more about the Legal Assistance Office, you may visit the Legal Assistance or Tax Center web sites at:
<http://www.redstone.army.mil/legal/lao.html> or
<http://www.redstone.army.mil/legal/taxcenter.html>.
These sites provide a wealth of information and resources to assist clients.

lowing: estate planning (wills, living wills, health-care powers of attorney, casualty assistance, etc.), powers of attorney, family law (nonsupport, divorce, paternity, adoption, etc.), real or personal property law issues, consumer protection law, economic issues (contracts, debts, insurance, etc.), military law issues (reports of survey, NCOER and OER appeals, line of duty investigations, security clearances, etc.), and tax issues, including the annual Tax Assistance Center program.

If you are an eligible client (active duty, military retirees, national guard or reserve on active duty orders over 29 days, or their dependents) in need of legal assistance, then you may call 876-9005 to schedule an appointment. Powers of attorney and notary services are provided on a walk-in basis. The Legal Assistance Office is located in building 111 on Goss Road and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4:30 p.m., excluding holidays.

DoD identifies Army casualty

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense announced Oct. 22 that PFC Paul J. Bueche, 19, of Daphne, Ala., died on Oct. 21 in Balad, Iraq. Bueche was changing a tire on a UH-60 Black Hawk

helicopter when the tire exploded. Bueche was assigned to the 131st Aviation Regiment, Army National Guard, Birmingham.

The incident is under investigation.